(c) whether any meeting has been convened by National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in this regard; and

(d) if so, the recommendations of NHRC and steps taken by Government to emplement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) The phenomenon of children working in the glass industry is most widely prevalent in Firozabad district of Uttar Pradesh. According to the information furnished by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the child labour engaged in various manufacturing processes in the glass industry in Firozabad district are reported to be prone to T.B. The Uttar Pradesh Government have launched rigorous enforcement drives under various labour laws and prosecutions have been launched against defaulting employers. Under National Child Labour Projects Scheme of Government of India special schools have been set up where children withdrawn from work in the glass industry are given primary level education and are provided with nutrition, health care, and monthly stipends. Intensive publicity campaigns have been launched to sensitize people against the practice of child labour and efforts are underway to extend benefits under various developmental and poverty alleviation programmes to the families of child workers with a view to rehabilitating them. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has convened meetings to review the progress of rehabilitatory measures. The major recommendations of (NHRC) in the various meetings on the subject pertained to undertaking survey in the district with a view to identifing the child labour and also to obtain information relating to socio-economic levels of their families, stepping up of enforcement of labour laws, enrolment of child labour in special schools and also informal and non-formal education centres, technology upgradation, and also to provide economic benefits to child labour families. A comprehensive survey of affected families has already been conducted in the district by U.P.—BBSCO. I.I.T., Kanpur has been sanctioned a two-year programme for the upgradation of technology and work in the glass industry. Work has already started on the project. Forty special schools have been set up with enrolment of 3,260 child labour as at present; 140 prosecutions have been launched during first six months of the current year. It has been reported by the Government of Uttar Pradesh that a large number of affected families have been provided financial assistance under various developmental programmes of the Government.

Standing Committee on Unorganised Rural Labour

748. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several years back a Central Standing Committee on unorganised rural labour used to function at the national level;

(b) whether this Standing Committee used to advise Centre on various problems of the rural labour;

(c) whether it is also a fact that after some years the Standing Committee was discontinued;

(d) whether there is any proposal to revive the Standing Committee on unorganised rural labour; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) With the setting up of the Sub-committee of the Standing Labour Committee on unorganised labour in 1987, it was decided to merge the work of the Central Standing Committee with the Sub-Committee of the Standing Labour Committee and to discontinue the

Central Standing Committee. The Meetings of the Sub-Committee are being held from time to time. As such there is no proposal to revive the Central Standing Committee on Unorganised Labour.

Transfer of Bailadila Mines

749. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government still adheres to handling over Bailadila iron-ore deposite to a private entrepreneur; and

(b) if so, details thereof and the justifications therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) The Government accorded approval to the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) vide its letter dated 12/13.6.95 for development of Bailadila iron ore deposit 11-B, in the joint venture. Based on the Government approval, N.M.D.C. has submitted its application for transfer of 11-B, mining lease in favour of the joint venture company.

The Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta granted a stay order on the transfer of the lease of 11-B, on 16.4.96 on a public interest petition filed by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and Shri Jibon Roy, Members of Parliament. The writ petition had been dismissed by the Hon'ble High Court on grounds of jurisdiction on 10.5.1996. However, the operation of the order was stayed by the Hon'ble High Court for a period of three weeks upto 31.5.1996. On a petition by the Joint Venture Company against this order, the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court ordered on 14.5.96 that the interim stay granted by the learned trial judge will remain suspended till the disposal of the appeal preferred by the Company and the appeal preferred by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and Shri Jibon Roy against the order dismissing the original writ petion on jurisdiction grounds. These appeals are yet to come up before the regular bench.

The subject is very important and needs detailed examination on various aspects. However, since the matter is pending before the Court, the Government would like to await the judicial verdict.

Linking CPI with Wages

750. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) level of current minimum wages prevailing in different States;

(b) change of base level wage (without D.A.) during last three years, State-wise;

(c) the States which have not yet introduced the system of linking Consumer Price Index with wages; and

(d) names of States where no change have taken place in the base level wages since last three years?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) A Statement indicating the available infosmation on the existing range of minimum wages for the unskilled category of workers in different States/ Union Territories is given below:

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.